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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT 1. Zatec and Louny Airfields

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2. Armored Force Camps at Louny and Podborany

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1. On 10 September 1952, immediately after the end of the Czechoslovak air exercises, Czechoslovak military attachés at Prague were ordered to visit the new airfields in northeast Czechoslovakia near the towns of Zatec and Louny. The inspection took place under the direction of Corps General Hanus, Commander in Chief of Czech Aviation, and General Gusev, Soviet military attaché at Prague.
2. The new fields were constructed according to plans by Colonel Kroh. The Zatec field has a radar installation at the extreme west of the field, behind the barracks. No radar installation was observed at Louny.
3. Among the workers at the two fields are several Russian civilians who are in charge of the work. At least a third of the workers at the two fields are Germans who received permission to reenter Czechoslovakia for the purpose. The truck service, which includes many three and six ton IFA trucks, made in East Germany, was in charge of German engineers from Chemnitz.
4. South of the Louny Airfield and also at Podborany, camps are being prepared for armored units, which are expected to arrive about November 1952. Czech officers of the armored force expected an early inspection by Brigadier General V. Janko.
5. There has been much talk of the necessity of organizing the political education of the staffs of the new airfields and armored camps, but it was not possible to delay the work enough for this.

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